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AMERICAN ART NEWS.

Entered as second-class mail matter, February 5, 1909,
at New York Post Office under the Act of
March 3, 1879.

Published Weekly from Oct. 15 to May 15 inclusive.
Monthly from May 15 to Sept. 15 inclusive.

AMERICAN ART NEWS CO., INC.,
Publishers.

JAMES B. TOWNSEND, President and Treasurer,
18-20 East 42d Street.
CHARLES M. WARNICK, Secretary,
18-20 East 42d Street.

LONDON OFFICE.—Art News, 67-69
Chancery Lane.

PARIS AGENT.—Felix Neuville, 2 bis rue
Caumartin.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Year, in advance	\$2.00
Foreign Countries	2.50
Single Copies	.10

Advertising Rates on Application.

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EDITORIALS.

The Winter Exhibitions.

The large routine exhibitions of the Winter Season are upon us. The "Winter Academy," as it is best known to the art world, will open to the public Saturday next in the Fine Arts Building in this city, and next week the Corcoran Gallery at Washington will open its biennial display of American pictures. Despite the number of pictures returned by the juries on both exhibitions, with resultant dismay and growling in the studios, both exhibitions, we are told, are of unusual excellence. As to this we shall see what we shall see, but it is safe to predict that there will be many works well worth the seeing in both displays. The Corcoran exhibition will attract to Washington a throng of artists, writers and art lovers, allured by the fame of its two preceding biennial displays, and the beautiful galleries wherein the pictures are shown. The New York Academy has been forced to curtail its already inadequate wall

space in the Fine Arts Building this Winter by the demands of the sculptors, so that the exhibition will again afford an object lesson of the crying need of the Metropolis for spacious exhibition galleries.

A Premature Obituary.

It falls to the lot of few to read their own obituaries, and the last personage to be accorded this opportunity is none other than John S. Sargent, the eminent Anglo-American artist. A Topeka, Kansas, newspaper recently devoted a half column of eulogy of and regret on the passing of the painter. It gives us pleasure to state that Mr. Sargent is very much alive, that Carroll Beckwith met and talked with him in Florence a few weeks ago, and that he is now hard at work at his Chelsea studio in London. May he be spared to the art world for many years. It is difficult to understand where the Kansas newspaper obtained its erroneous information as to Sargent's passing.

WINSLOW HOMER MEMORIAL.

The Metropolitan Museum is arranging for a memorial exhibition of the works of Winslow Homer, to be held for six weeks, and to open in early February. John W. Alexander is chairman of the Committee of Arrangements.

SALMAGUNDI WATERCOLOR SHOW.

The annual exhibition of water colors and pastels by members of the Salmagundi Club will open to-day to the public at the club house, 14 West 12 St., to remain there through Dec. 14th. The Press Day was held yesterday, and the stag reception last evening.

Count Rene Avogli Trotti, the Paris dealer, arrived on Monday on the Kaiserin Augusta Victoria with a number of pictures of the early French, Italian and Spanish schools, which include Nattier's well-known portrait of Madame de la Port, and examples of Velasquez, El Greco, Cossa and Del Piombo, and with these pictures is installed at the Hotel Plaza. Count Trotti, interviewed by a N. Y. Herald reporter on his arrival, expressed himself at much length regarding art conditions in America, paid the usual and expected compliments to the American public, and especially to the American art collectors on their passion for collecting old masters, their taste and discrimination, and their dislike of mediocre work; emphasized the difficulty of getting important pictures from the country houses of England and castles of the continent, deprecated the statement attributed to William M. Chase (which will probably be a surprise to Mr. Chase), that there are 50,000 spurious Corots in America; said that the value of every picture must be determined individually; expressed sympathy with the Messrs. Duveen in their recent troubles, and incredulity as to any idea that they had been engaged in any attempt to defraud the United States Government; said he thought that the growth of interest in antiques was increasing in this country, and expressed his pleasure that the tariff on "artistic property" has been removed here. Count Trotti will give an exhibition of his pictures at the Plaza.

AROUND THE GALLERIES.

Mr. William Macbeth, of the Macbeth Gallery, 450 Fifth Ave., opened this week his annual exhibition of small bronzes and American water colors. The display, which fills the two galleries, is unusually interesting and important this year. Notice will be made next week.

An exhibition of recent works by George Hitchcock, the American painter of the tulips and the life of Holland, opened in the Upper Gallery at the Knoedler Galleries, 355 Fifth Ave., on Thursday, and will continue there through Dec. 10. It will be followed by the annual display of water colors painted during the past summer by that versatile and veteran artist, F. Hopkinson Smith. A full length seated portrait of Mrs. Wm. H. Taft by an European artist, Boris Kronstrand, has been shown in the Knoedler window during the week. The likeness is good but the canvas lacks distinction and is somewhat hard and dry in color. Rodin's marble bust of Thos. F. Ryan has also been on view in these galleries. It is, as might naturally be supposed, a strong and well modeled work, but the expression is not life like, and unless one were told the identity of the sculptor it might be attributed to any one of several lesser men. In the lower gallery at Knoedler's there will open today perhaps the most important exhibition of early English mezzotints ever made in New York. Many of the prints are duplicates from private collections and the British Museum. One of the most notable is a first state of the famous Lady Bampfylde after Reynolds.

At the Ehrich Galleries, 463 Fifth Ave., there is now on view, among other interesting old masters, a most alluring life-sized double portrait of two Dutch children by Jacob Gerritz Cuyp. The canvas is notable, not only for the fine painting of flesh and the stuffs of the costume, but for the life-like and quaint expressions of this "little brother and sister" of long ago. Also in these galleries there is an Italian primitive, a head of a man, formerly owned by Walter Savage Landor, painted in tempera and which might be called a near Botticelli; and a portrait, "Fabricius," by Lucas Cranach. Mr. Ehrich appears to have been singularly fortunate on his trip abroad last summer in securing some of the best and most important old masters that have yet come to his galleries.

The exhibition of recent works by Jules Guerin at the Montross Gallery, 550 Fifth Ave., which was so successful as to lead to its continuance a week longer than had been planned, will close today. The next exhibition at these galleries will be one by Robert Reid, to open about Dec. 14th.

Portraits of American presidents appear to have become a feature of the dealers' galleries each succeeding winter season of late years. This season the Scott & Fowles Company, 590 Fifth Ave., are showing the full length life sized portrait of President Taft, painted at the White House last year by Solla. The canvas has naturally drawn a throng of visitors. It is a brilliant and satisfactory, if not great, presentment of the nation's chief magistrate.

The display of drawings by old masters from the collection of the Duke of Rutland, continues to attract connoisseurs to the Gimpel & Wildenstein Galleries, 636 Fifth Ave.

Mr. C. J. Charles has not yet arrived at his galleries, 251 Fifth Ave., but is expected there soon. His partner, Mr. H. F. Dawson, who has been seriously ill at his apartments here for many weeks, is happily convalescent, but his recovery will be slow.

The sale is announced for the close of January of the collection of modern pictures formed by Mr. John H. Converse, of Philadelphia. The collection is an important one and contains numerous fine examples of the Barbizon school and also many good American canvases. The sale will be conducted by Mr. Thos. E. Kirby, of the American Art Association. The rumored sales of the few pictures and many art belongings of the estate of the late James Henry Smith and the pictures and art objects owned by the late Charles Stewart Smith will not take place this season.

Lovers of old and modern masterpieces of the bookbinders' art had a treat this week in the display at Bonaventure's Gallery, No. 5 East 35 St., of a varied and unusual assemblage of these rich and dainty treasures. Mr. Bonaventure has the rare knowledge and the long experience which enable him to get together an exhibition of bookbindings by the best known of the European artisans, and to these adds some choice pieces of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth century French workmen, including several owned by Marie Antoinette, which delight the connoisseur.

At the Schaus Gallery, 415 Fifth Avenue, fourteen reproductions in color of the frieze decorations by E. A. Abbey, of the "Holy Grail" in the Boston Public Library, are now on exhibition. These reproductions are faithful to the originals in color, and are most effective.

OBITUARY.

E. P. Berne-Bellecour.

Etienne Prosper Berne-Bellecour, the landscape and portrait painter, died in Paris on Monday last. He was born at Boulogne-sur-Mer in 1838, was a pupil of Picot and Barrias, and at first painted landscapes and portraits. His reputation was achieved, however, with spirited pictures of episodes of the Franco-Prussian war. His works, many of which are in private collections in this country, include: "Cannon Shot," painted in 1872; "In the Trenches," 1877; "Attack on the Château of Montbeliard," 1881, and "To Arms!" 1891.

A. Harriet Osgood.

Miss Adelaide Harriet Osgood died in her studio in this city last week. She was a daughter of James Winthrop Osgood, of Columbus, O., and established the Osgood Art School, at 120 West 21 St., in 1878. This school was the pioneer decorative art school in the United States, and was the first to introduce decorative china painting outside of a factory.

Lucy Durand Woodman.

Mrs. Lucy Durand Woodman died at her home in New York last Monday. She was the last surviving child of the late Asher B. Durand, President of the Academy of Design for many years.

An exhibition of paintings by Artist members will open at the Pen & Brush Club, on Dec. 4th, to continue one week. It will be representative of such painters as Mrs. Charlotte Coman, Mrs. Wyant, Florence Snell, Mrs. Parrish, Alethea H. Platt, Helen Watson Phelps, etc.